

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-05 NSAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 IO-10 L-02 H-01

EB-04 TRSE-00 AID-05 IGA-01 OMB-01 PRS-01 MC-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3033

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S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 AMMAN 6830

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, JO, US

SUBJECT: VISIT TO JORDAN BY ASD(ISA) ELLSWORTH

1. SUMMARY. ASD ELLSWORTH COMPLETED WELL-ORGANIZED TWO-DAY ITINERARY IN JORDAN COMPRISING MEETINGS WITH KEY MEMBERS OF POLITICO-MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT AND VISITS TO SELECTED JAF INSTALLATIONS. AS SENIOR DOD OFFICIAL TO VISIT JORDAN IN RECENT YEARS, MR ELLSWORTH WAS RECEIVED WITH TRADITIONALLY HIGH STANDARD OF JORDANIAN HOSPITALITY. WHILE JORDANIAN HOSTS VIEWED MR ELLSWORTH'S VISIT PRIMARILY AS A MEANS OF INTRODUCING HIM TO THEIR COUNTRY AND ARMED FORCES, SOME SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS DID TAKE PLACE DURING BRIEFINGS PRESENTED BY SENIOR JORDANIAN OFFICERS, A CALL ON THE KING, AND A BRIEF BILATERAL CONFERENCE HELD ON THE MORNING OF THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14 WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE US-JORDANIAN JOINT COMMISSION. END SUMMARY.

2. INTRODUCTORY BRIEFINGS WERE PRESENTED ON THE FIRST DAY (13 NOVEMBER) IN A STRAIGHT-FORWARD, LOW-KEY MANNER BY THE DIRECTOR OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE, THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ORGANIZATION, AND THE RJAF COMMANDER. THE INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING INCLUDED A RATHER CUSTOMARY JORDANIAN THREAT ASSESS-

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MENT WITH FOCUS ON SYRIA AND THE POSSIBILITY OF RESURGENT

FEDAYEEN ACTIVITY; ALSO PROVIDED WERE DETAILED COMPARATIVE ARMS INVENTORIES OF JORDAN, SYRIA, IRAQ AND ISRAEL. FIGURES ROUGHLY CONFORMED TO US ESTIMATES; A NOTABLE EXCEPTION INVOLVED ANTI-TANK WEAPONS WHERE JORDANIANS CREDIT ISRAEL WITH 400 TOW ANTI-TANK LAUNCHERS. THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ORGANIZATION BRIEFED JORDAN'S PLANNED FOUR DIVISIONAL ORGANIZATION BASED ON TWO MECHANIZED AND TWO ARMORED DIVISIONS. THE AIR FORCE COMMANDER DESCRIBED CURRENT AND PROJECTED AIR-CRAFT HOLDINGS AT SOME LENGTH, REVIEWED HIS PLANS FOR AIR BASE EXPANSION, AND ALLUDED TO SEVERAL UNRESOLVED ISSUES INCLUDING AIR DEFENSE WEAPONS AND RELEASE OF CBUS. WHILE BRIEFERS CAREFULLY AVOIDED APPLYING PRESSURE ON THEIR US AUDIENCE, THEIR PRESENTATIONS WERE INTERLACED WITH RATIONALE IN SUPPORT OF CONTINUING REQUESTS FOR US MILITARY HARDWARE.

3. LATER ON THE FIRST DAY THE PARTY PAID A COURTESY CALL ON KING HUSSEIN. IN DISCUSSING JORDAN'S REGIONAL ROLE, HE REVIEWED JORDAN'S MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND ADVISORY ACTIVITIES IN THE LOWER PERSIAN GULF STATES AND OMAN. WITHOUT SPECIFICALLY CITING JORDAN'S RECENT REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL C-130 AIRCRAFT, HE DID REFER TO THE RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER OF TRANS-

PORT AIRCRAFT IN RJAF INVENTORIES AS A FACTOR LIMITING JORDAN'S ABILITY TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE LOGISTICAL SUPPORT TO ITS CONTINGENTS IN THE GULF AREA.

4. ON THE FOLLOWING DAY (15 NOVEMBER) THE TWO SIDES CONVENED FOR A SHORT DISCUSSION OF BILATERAL DEFENSE ISSUES UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE RESPECTIVE HEADS OF THE JOINT DEFENSE AND SECURITY SECTION OF THE US-JORDANIAN COMMISSION, MR ELLSWORTH AND LT GENERAL BEN SHAKER; THE US DEFENSE ATTACHE HAD EARLIER AGREED UPON A NINE-ITEM AGENDA WHICH FORMED THE BASIS OF THE DETAILED DISCUSSION DESCRIBED BELOW. IN HIS WELCOMING REMARKS GENERAL BEN SHAKER EXPRESSED HIS PLEASURE THAT A SENIOR US DEFENSE OFFICIAL HAD COME TO JORDAN TO SEE FIRST-HAND THEIR SITUATION AND COMPREHEND THEIR PROBLEMS. MR ELLSWORTH RESPONDED BY COMPLIMENTING THE ROLE OF THE JORDANIAN ARMED FORCES UNDER THE COURAGEOUS AND IMAGINATIVE LEADERSHIP OF KING HUSSEIN IN CONTRIBUTING TOWARD REGIONAL STABILITY. SPECIFICS WERE COVERED AS FOLLOWS:

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A. US-JORDAN JOINT COMMISSION. LTG BEN SHAKER SUGGESTED THAT DISCUSSION BEGIN WITH THIS IMPORTANT TOPIC AND ASKED FOR MR ELLSWORTH'S IDEAS ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THIS COMMISSION. AFTER LIMITED DISCUSSION OF BASIC PRINCIPLES GOVERNING MEETINGS, THE TWO CHAIRMEN AGREED IN PRINCIPLE ON TWO ANNUAL MEETINGS AS NECESSARY TO BE HELD RESPECTIVELY IN WASHINGTON AND AMMAN AT THE CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF-ASSISTANT

SECRETARY LEVEL, WITHOUT EXCLUSIVELY HOLDING OTHER MEETINGS AT TECHNICAL LEVEL. LATER BOTH SIDES AGREED THE NEXT MEETING WOULD BE HELD IN WASHINGTON IN THE SPRING OF 1975.

B. ARMORED WORKSHOP. LTG BIN SHAKER EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE JORDAN ATTACHES TO THIS PROJECT WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS ONE OF HIGHEST PRIORITY. EXCEPT FOR LACK OF FY 75 GA FUNDING, HE FELT THAT THIS PROJECT WAS WELL ON TRACK. IN RESPONSE TO A QUERY FROM MR ELLSWORTH, THE US DEFENSE ATTACHE EXPLAINED THAT \$6 MILLION WAS PROGRAMMED UNDER FY 1975 GRANT AID FUNDS TO FINANCE THE INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT; REMAINING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WAS BEING HANDLED BY FMS CASES. MR ELLSWORTH AND MR NOYES ASSURED LTG BIN SHAKER OF STRONG DOD SUPPORT FOR THIS UNDERTAKING, AND MR NOYES OBSERVED THAT IF THE JORDANIANS DID THEIR CUSTOMARY SUPERB JOB IN SETTING UP THIS FACILITY THEIR US COUNTERPARTS MIGHT ASK FOR JORDANIAN ASSISTANCE IN ESTABLISHING A SIMILAR REHABILITATING MECHANISM.

C. C-130 AIRCRAFT. LTG BIN SHAKER EXPLAINED THAT JORDAN'S REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL C-130 AIRCRAFT HAS A DUAL RATIONALE: FIRST, FROM A LOGISTICAL STANDPOINT REGULAR TRANSPORT FLIGHTS ARE REQUIRED TO DELIVER ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES TO JORDANIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND ADVISORY PERSONNEL IN THE GULF AREA. SECONDLY, THE JORDANIANS MUST PLAN FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF A REQUIREMENT FOR THEIR SF BRIGADE TO BE USED MILITARILY IN THE GULF AND PENINSULAR. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WOULD ONLY BE DONE AFTER CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH THE US GOVERNMENT. THIS IS

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 L-02

H-01 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

IO-10 EB-04 TRSE-00 AID-05 IGA-01 OMB-01 MC-01 PRS-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3034

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THE FIRST DIRECT STATEMENT BY A SENIOR JORDANIAN OFFICIAL IN AN OFFICIAL MEETING THAT SUCH A MOVE MIGHT BE CONTEMPLATED. TO FULFILL THESE REQUIREMENTS, GENERAL BIN SHAKER STATED THAT THE RJAF WOULD NEED SIX ADDITIONAL C-130B OR C-130E AIRCRAFT. MR ELLSWORTH RESPONDED THAT THE ONLY C-130 MODEL CURRENTLY IN PRODUCTION IS THE C-130H, WHICH COSTS APPROXIMATELY \$4 MILLION MORE PER COPY THAN THE MODELS SUGGESTED BY LTG BIN SHAKER AND IS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH THE C-130BS PRESENTLY IN JORDANIAN INVENTORIES. LTG BIN SHAKER REPLIED THAT THE JORDANIANS WERE THINKING NOT IN TERMS OF NEW PROCUREMENT BUT RATHER HOPING THAT THEY MIGHT RECEIVE OLDER MODEL C-130S WHEN PHASED OUT OF USAF INVENTORIES. US REPRESENTATIVES EXPLAINED THAT NO SUCH PHASE-OUTS ARE CONTEMPLATED AND SUGGESTED THAT THE JORDANIANS CONSIDER THE COMMERCIAL VERSION OF THIS AIRCRAFT. THE JORDANIANS COUNTERED BY STATING THAT THIS MODEL COSTS ON THE ORDER OF \$7 MILLION WHICH IS ROUGHLY THE COST OF A C-130H. LTG BIN SHAKER QUERIED HIS US COUNTERPARTS ABOUT A PURCHASE NOW IN ABEYANCE OF EARLIER MODEL C-130S BY LIBYA AND WONDERED IF JORDAN COULD OBTAIN THESE AIRCRAFT. MR ELLSWORTH PROMISED TO CHECK.

D. M60 TANKS. LTG BIN SHAKER INTRODUCED THIS SUBJECT BY NOTING THAT JORDAN HAS 255 CENTURIONS WHICH IT HOPES TO REPLACE

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WITH NEWER MODELS. HE SAID THAT THE JORDANIAN ARMY M48A1 TANK TEAN WHICH HAD VISITED THE US IN AUGUST HAD NOTICED A LARGE NUMBER OF M60S AT ANNISTON ARMY DEPOT AWAITING REBUILD. HE HOPED THAT THE USG WOULD KEEP JORDAN IN MIND IF ANY OF THESE M60S COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR RELEASE AND POINTED OUT THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN IN-COUNTRY ARMOR REBUILD FACILITY WOULD ENABLE THE JORDANIANS TO PERFORM ANY NECESSARY REHABILITATION ON TANKS SO OBTAINED. HE EXPLAINED THAT ALLOCATION OF THESE TANKS WOULD BE IN THE INTERESTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES, INASMUCH AS JORDAN COULD THEREBY REPLACE OLDER TANKS IN ITS INVENTORIES WITH US HARDWARE RATHER THAN SEEKING TO PROCURE THEM FROM THIRD COUNTRIES. HE DID NOT PRESS THE ISSUE BUT ONLY ASKED THAT THEIR INTEREST BE KEPT IN MIND.

E. COBRA. LTG BIN SHAKER REVIEWED JORDAN'S REQUEST FOR PRICE AND AVAILABILITY ON 12 TOW-CONFIGURED AH-1G OR AH-1J ARMED HELICOPTERS FOLLOWED BY THEIR FORMAL REQUEST FOR A LETTER OF OFFER ON 12 AH-1JS. HE ALLUDED TO SYRIA'S BURGEONING TANK FLEET WHICH JORDAN CAN HARDLY HOPE TO MATCH, GIVEN PRESENT CONSTRAINTS ON TANK PROCUREMENT. ACCORDINGLY, HE FELT THAT TOW-CONFIGURED COBRA, WHICH WOULD

PROVIDE JORDAN WITH A STAND-OFF CAPABILITY AGAINST SYRIAN ARMOR, WOULD BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND ECONOMICAL MEANS OF COUNTERING THE TANK THREAT JORDAN FACES. WHILE REALIZING THAT TOW COBRA HAS NOT YET BEEN RELEASED TO ANY MIDEAST STATE, HE STATED HIS CONVICTION THAT JORDAN'S PARTICULAR DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS GIVE IT A MORE PRESSING NEED FOR THIS WEAPONS SYSTEM THAN ANY OTHER PROSPECTIVE BUYER IN THIS AREA. MR ELLSWORTH REITERATED OUR PRESENT POLICY AGAINST RELEASE OF TOW COBRA IN THE MIDDLE EAST; HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT EFFECTIVENESS OF THE TOW-CONFIGURED COBRA IS STILL UNDER STUDY AND US MILITARY ANALYSTS HAVE NOT YET CONCLUDED THAT IT IS IN FACT ADAPTABLE TO A DESERT ENVIRONMENT. GENERAL BIN SHAKER STRESSED THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN JORDAN'S FORWARD DEFENSIVE AREAS AND THE MORE TRADITIONAL TYPE OF DESERT TERRAIN CHARACTERISTIC OF THE ABABIAN PENINSULA. MR ELLSWORTH ADVISED GENERAL BIN SHAKER THAT THIS MATTER WOULD BE KEPT UNDER REVIEW.

G. REDEYE MISSILES. LTG BIN SHAKER STATED THAT JORDAN HAD RECENTLY REQUESTED AN LOA FOR 500 REDEYE MISSILES; HOWEVER, SECRET

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HE HOPED THAT NO ONE IN WASHINGTON WOULD CONSTRUE THIS ACQUISITION TO BE IN LIEU OF AN ADEQUATE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM. IN THIS RESPECT HE HOPED THAT A US TEAM OF AIR DEFENSE EXPERTS WOULD SOON COME TO JORDAN TO ANALYZE JOINTLY WITH JORDANIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL JAF'S AIR DEFENSE NEEDS. SECRETARY ELLSWORTH RESPONDED BY STATING THAT HE SYMPATHIZED WITH THE JORDANIAN REQUEST AND WOULD PERSONALLY SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE TO EXPEDITE THE TEAM'S ARRIVAL IN JORDAN.

F. DRAGON MISSILES. LTG BIN SHAKER SURFACED JORDAN'S REQUEST FOR DRAGON MISSILES AND STATED THAT THESE WOULD BE USED TO GIVE THEIR SF BRIGADE AN EFFECTIVE AT WEAPON. HE STATED, AND WAS REASSURED, THAT THE USG AGREED IN PRINCIPLE WITH THE TRANSFER, AND THAT IT ONLY APPEARED TO BE A PROBLEM INVOLVING CONTRACTORS AND PRODUCTION.

H. CBU'S. BRIG ABOUD, COMMANDER RJAF, STATED THAT SINCE THEIR AIR FORCE WAS LIMITED IN QUANTITY, THEY HAD TO MAKE UP FOR IT IN QUALITY; THEREFORE, THEY ARE ANXIOUS FOR USG TO RELEASE COMPATIBLE F-5E CBU'S TO JORDAN. RJAF'S ORIGINAL REQUEST FOR CBU'S DATES BACK TO MARCH 1974 WHEN THEY WERE INFORMED IN WASHINGTON THAT THEY SHOULD SUBMIT A FORMAL REQUEST. THIS WAS DONE, BUT THEN THE ISSUE REVOLVED AROUND COMPATABILITY AND AVAILABILITY. THEY NOW UNDERSTAND THAT OF THE FINAL LIST OF FIVE CBU'S, TWO WERE OUT OF PRODUCTION, ONE WAS NOT RELEASABLE, AND TWO WERE UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR RELEASE TO JORDAN. THEY WERE STILL WAITING FOR FINAL FORMAL APPROVAL. SECRETARY ELLSWORTH SAID HE HAD NO

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE, BUT THAT HE UNDERSTOOD
JAF'S RATIONAL FOR WANTING CBU'S AND WOULD LOOK INTO THE
MATTER WHEN HE RETURNS.

5. SUBSEQUENTLY THE TWO SIDES AGREED TO ISSUE A JOINT
PRESS STATEMENT. (TEXT AMMAN 6827).
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